

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND FORESTRY



COMMISSION ON STREAMLINING
GOVERNMENT

SURVEY RESPONSES FOR:

OFFICE OF AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
OFFICE OF AGRO-CONSUMER SERVICES
OFFICE OF ANIMAL HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY
OFFICE OF FORESTRY
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE
OFFICE OF SOIL AND WATER

SUBMITTED BY:
MIKE STRAIN, DVM
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY
MIKE STRAIN DVM
COMMISSIONER



September 1, 2009

Honorable Jack Donahue, Chairman
Commission on Streamlining Government
P. O. Box 44481
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Dear Chairman Donahue:

The Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry's response to the Commission's streamlining survey is enclosed.

Article 4, Section 10 of Louisiana Constitution provides:

"There shall be a Department of Agriculture. The commissioner of agriculture shall head the department and shall exercise **all** functions of the state relating to the promotion, protection, and advancement of agriculture, except research and educational functions expressly allocated by this constitution or by law to other state agencies. The department shall exercise such functions and the commissioner shall have other powers and perform other duties authorized by this constitution or provided by law."

My first act as commissioner was to end the department's long time construction programs, which involved the substantial use of LDAF employee manpower and financial resources, and re-focus the department on its core mission of promoting, protecting and advancing agriculture, as set forth in the Constitution. As a result, we have been able to provide a higher level of service and professionalism to the private and public sectors we serve.

It is important to understand that streamlining the department has been underway under my leadership since January 2008. On day one of my administration, I charged my staff with analyzing the departments' programs, policies, contracts, fees, boards and commissions, all in an effort to ensure maximum efficiency and eliminate all duplication. As a result of aggressive program analysis, I dissolved the Office of Marketing, streamlining the program areas and cabinet level positions of LDAF from seven (7) to six (6). I dispersed, across the remaining divisions, the 25 boards and commissions administered by LDAF to garner greater efficiency in the utilization of personnel and assets. Our goals have been and continue to be to investigate ways to reorganize and consolidate programs and cross utilize employees to the fullest extent possible.

Some of the projects we have completed to streamline and make the department more efficient include:

- reduced the overall workforce by 152 employees or by 15%, with additional duties being absorbed by current personnel;
- reduced the vehicle fleet by 297 vehicles and eliminating home storage of vehicles, which has significantly reduced the department's fuel and maintenance costs;
- closed two mechanics shops;
- restructured the in-house purchasing system to allow for strict supervision;
- submitted a revised set of outcome performance measures, focusing on return on investment of taxpayer monies;
- instituted revised procedures, practices, and rules to comply with Office of Risk Management's Loss Prevention Program;
- created a new and expanded department website to include regulatory documents, applications for certificates and licenses and employee training resources in an effort to increase staff efficiency and accomplish complete transparency;
- placed the Louisiana Agricultural Finance Authority (LAFA) under the Public Bid Law;
- sold \$2 million worth of LAFA dozers and other equipment that was used for department construction projects;

- repealed the State Market Commission and transferred all duties, employees, funds and property owned, operated by or leased by the State Market Commission to LAFA;
- proposed (and awaiting final approval from Division of Administration) reduction of forestry airplane fleet from 18 to 12;
- currently reorganizing statewide Forestry Districts and fire crew standby locations across the state;
- restructured and consolidated administrative and supervisory positions;
- closed one of three operating and staffed grain labs in Louisiana;
- re-focused the Boll Weevil Program which is resulting in a tremendous reduction in weevil numbers, while at the same time reducing full-time and seasonal program personnel;
- suspended indefinitely the Nuisance Animal Control Program at an estimated savings of \$350,000 and a reduction of 8 employees;
- closed the Brucellosis lab located in Baton Rouge at an estimated savings of \$110,000 with a reduction of 3 employees;
- closed the Central Louisiana Diagnostic lab located in Alexandria at an estimated savings of \$96,517 with a reduction of 2 employees;
- implemented a new emergency fueling program relative to our state emergency response duties (ESF- 4 and 11);
- pooled department personnel and resources from across the state to administer the Louisiana Recovery Grant Program and the 2008 Aquaculture Grant Program;
- restructured (in cooperation with LDEQ) the Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution Abatement Program to enable direct implementation between USEPA and the local Soil & Water Conservation Districts, enhancing program participation and significantly reducing multiagency administrative oversight and costs;
- revised the conservation program delivery system to allow private landowners and cooperating agencies a stronger role in development of program guidelines, which resulted in lessening state administration oversight and costs and increased the effectiveness of the local work groups resulting in increased program participation;
- coordinated conservation education delivery to educators and the public with other state agencies and local entities, including volunteers, to reduce costs to the department and the overall cost for implementing the education programs.

Since January 2008, the department has had many significant changes, which are highlighted in the answers provided throughout the enclosed documents. These changes have been made not only out of necessity due to a smaller budget, but out of an obligation to the taxpayers of the state who deserve a department that is run efficiently and with fiscal responsibility.

The department is continuously pursuing each and every opportunity that might provide a benefit to the state and its citizens. With declining state revenues and an ever-decreasing department budget, I have no choice but to find every efficiency possible.

While the state budget has grown by sixty-five percent (65%) over the last five fiscal years, the budget for the Department of Agriculture and Forestry has declined by three percent (-3%) over the same time period. The appropriation for the current year is ten percent (-10%) less than the expenditures made in the last full year of the prior administration. Significant cuts in the last year and a half came in the form of reduced direct appropriations to the prior year, mid-year budget reductions in the prior year, and further deep cuts into the current fiscal year. Further, these cuts do not reflect the true impact of construction activities over several years that saw significant department resources subsidized with bond proceeds to fund that initiative.

None of the most recent cuts to agriculture and forestry programs considered the overall funding reductions that the department had experienced during the last five years while the rest of state government grew at an exponential pace. For example, the mid-year reductions last year swept cash from self-generated funds for agriculture and forestry programs even though no state general funds were available. This action placed a severe burden on the department's ability to cash flow its operations during the prior year. The Department of

Chairman Donahue
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Agriculture and Forestry was the only state agency forced to layoff people last fiscal year. The initial operating cuts and mid-year reductions twice caused layoffs at both the beginning of the year and mid-year, respectively.

As you can see, we have been doing our part to streamline and make the department more efficient--one of which the citizens of Louisiana can be proud. I know I am. I am proud to lead the Department of Agriculture and Forestry and its unified and coordinated team as we effectively respond to the challenges facing the multi-billion dollar agricultural and forestry industries.

My staff and I are at your service as you complete your task and look forward to working with you on this project.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mike Strain', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mike Strain DVM
Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND FORESTRY



OFFICE OF AGRICULTURAL AND
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

SEPTEMBER 1, 2009

SUBMITTED BY:
MIKE STRAIN, DVM
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

DEPARTMENT: Office of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Department of Agriculture and Forestry
STAFF CONTACT: Todd Parker, Assistant Commissioner
LAST UPDATE: 9/1/2009

Section One: Agency Overview

Identify your overarching reform goal(s) for the agency.

The Office of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences is comprised of four divisions: Agricultural Chemistry Programs; Seed Programs; Pesticide and Environmental Programs; and Horticulture and Quarantine Programs.

The goals of the Office are to: 1) assure, through sampling and inspection, that feed, fertilizer, lime, horticultural products, pesticides, and seeds meet or exceed the quality standards set by federal and Louisiana laws, rules, and regulations; and 2) through licensing and certification, assure a level of competency in services provided by those industries regulated in an effort to protect the public and the environment. The mission of the Office of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences is to ensure that animal feeds, pet foods, fertilizers, agricultural liming materials and pesticides meet all requirements of law and regulation; to monitor and provide for the prevention, control and eradication of regulated and exotic crop pests and diseases; to oversee the qualifications and practices of persons engaged in the green industry; to ensure the proper labeling, distribution, storage, use, application, and disposal of pesticides within the state of Louisiana through fair and equitable implementation and enforcement of all applicable state and federal laws; to ensure that seed sold for planting purposes meets seed label guarantees and quality standards; and to ensure a safe and abundant supply of food and fiber.

Pesticide and Environmental Programs Division

The Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) is designated by EPA as the state's lead agency in the regulation of pesticide use and application. The LDAF's Pesticide and Environmental Programs Division is responsible for licensing and training pesticide applicators, overseeing worker protection, registering pesticides for sale in the state and working to minimize unnecessary impacts by pests to agriculture and society in general while protecting human health, the environment, and endangered and threatened species as mandated by the federal law.

The Division ensures the proper labeling, distribution, storage, transportation, use, application, and disposal of pesticides within the state of Louisiana through fair and equitable implementation and enforcement of all applicable state and federal laws. Through the Advisory Commission on Pesticides and the Structural Pest Control Commission, the division investigates and brings actions against those charged with violations of pesticide laws, rules and regulations.

Agricultural Chemistry Programs Division

The Agricultural Chemistry Programs Division is responsible for administering state laws and regulations which regulate the manufacturing and sale of animal feeds, pet foods, fertilizers and agricultural liming materials. The Agricultural Chemistry Laboratory is responsible for analyzing agricultural chemicals and other farm input components as part of regulatory enforcement of feed, fertilizers, and limes. It is also the testing laboratory for the Division of Pesticide and Environmental Programs, providing analysis in the enforcement of the Pesticide Law. It also houses the analytical portion of the USDA meat and HACCP programs administered by the Office of Animal Health.

Seed Programs Division

The Regulatory Seed Testing Program is designed to prevent Louisiana farmers and public consumers from involuntarily purchasing lower quality seeds by ensuring that seed being offered for sale meets quality standards and truth in labeling. The program is also designed to ensure that a reliable and consistent supply of high quality seeds is available to all Louisiana growers. The state seed laboratory is the only seed testing facility available in the state and provides testing services for companies and individuals wanting standard or special seed tests on agriculture, vegetable, lawn, wildflower or forest tree seeds. Of importance to the state's farmers are the standard purity and germination tests that assist farmers to more accurately project actual field emergence, which determines planting rates. The program further serves to prevent the introduction and spread of genetic contamination and noxious weeds in important economic crops.

DOTD law requires contractors to provide Louisiana seed lab analysis reports in order to be reimbursed for seed lots used in highway construction jobs. Additionally, analysis reports to farmers on seed lots that were planted are required in order to receive program payments from the Farm Service Agency.

The Louisiana Seed Certification Program provides a wide range of services that aid certified growers in the production, identification, distribution, and promotion of new and improved crop varieties. Certified seed is the highest quality seed available to local farmers, providing a value-added product for the certified growers and an increase in crop production potential to farmers and the general public. The Program provides phytosanitary inspections of seed fields, and a mechanism whereby Louisiana seed growers may export locally grown seed to European countries who are members of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). A memorandum of understanding exists with the US Department of Agriculture to carry out EOCD seed schemes and to inspect seed fields to determine OECD eligibility.

Horticulture and Quarantine Programs Division

The Horticulture and Quarantine Programs Division monitors for, and provides for the prevention, control, and eradication of regulated and exotic crop pests or diseases endangering Louisiana's agricultural (food and fiber supply), forestry, horticultural, and apiary industries and the environment; ensures that products certified for export from Louisiana are free from regulated pests; and oversees the qualifications and practices of persons engaged in the green industry. The Division licenses and permits horticulture related businesses; and inspects, samples,

surveys, monitors, and oversees eradication and management efforts for regulated plant pests, including boll weevil.

The Division provides effective licensing and enforcement of persons engaged in the green industry; safeguards against the introduction and spread of plant pests into Louisiana's agricultural industries and the environment; sustains and enhances protection of our food supply and our 'green industry' economies; and enables and increases the exportation of Louisiana agricultural products.

Review and briefly outline the constitutional and statutory mandates for your agency.

Constitution Article 4, Section 10 provides that there shall be a Department of Agriculture and that the commissioner of agriculture "shall head the department and shall exercise all functions of the state relating to the promotion, protection, and advancement of agriculture".

R.S. 36:628 provides that the Office of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences shall administer the provisions of law relating to fertilizers, seeds, plant diseases, commercial feeds, pesticides, horticulture, and apiaries. The office shall perform technical services and laboratory functions for the farmers of the state and shall perform functions designed to expand and improve seed certification, increase production of rice and nursery stock; monitor for, and provide for the prevention, control and eradication of regulated and exotic crop pests or diseases endangering Louisiana's agricultural, horticultural, and apiary industries; assure that products certified for export are free from pests; oversee the qualifications and practices of persons engaged in the green industry; sample pesticides, feeds, fertilizer, seed and agricultural materials to assure that they meet all requirements of law and regulation; assure the proper labeling, distribution, storage, sale, offering for sale, and application of pesticides; license and regulate pesticide applicators and pest control companies; regulate the treatment, storage, or disposal of pesticide wastes; and perform other related functions, all in accordance with applicable law.

Relevant statutes are: R.S. 3:16, 1024 and 1025, 1311-1319, 1361-1373, 1431-1449, 1601-1617, 1651-1656, 1731-1736, 1771-1775, 1891-1907, 2301-2311, 3201-3391.13, 3801-3816; R.S. 36:621 and 628; and R.S. 40:608.3

Pesticide and Environmental Programs Division

Louisiana Pesticide Law is comprised of R.S. 3:3201-3391.13. The commissioner is required to adopt such rules and regulations as are necessary to implement the provisions of the law, including but not limited to rules and regulations governing the registration, distribution, sale, offering for sale, and application of pesticides; the making of recommendations by agricultural consultants; the disposal of pesticide containers and wastes; and the disposition of agricultural commodities and other materials contaminated with pesticide residues. The law creates the Structural Pest Control

Commission and the Advisory Commission on Pesticides; provides for the registration of pesticides, regulation of the sale and application of pesticides, including the certification of pesticide applicators, the licensing of pesticide salespersons, pesticide dealers, agricultural consultants; provides for the regulation of pesticide wastes; establishes a water monitoring program for pesticide presence; provides for the regulation of the pest control industry, including the licensing of pest control operators, registering of pest control technicians.

Agricultural Chemistry Programs Division

The Agricultural Chemistry Division of AES consists of the Feed, Fertilizer and Lime regulatory programs. Each of these programs is statutorily mandated.

The Louisiana Feed Commission is responsible for overseeing the administration of the Louisiana Feed Law (LRS 3:1891 -1907). The purpose of the feed program is to ensure the quality and safety of feed sold within the state. This is accomplished through manufacturer registration and a system of sampling throughout the state at manufacturers, farms and retail locations. The sampled products are analyzed to determine if they meet the guaranteed analysis printed on the product labels and for safety. When a sample of feed is found to not meet guarantee the manufacturer is required to pay a deficiency fee directly to the end user when that person is known. When a product is determined to be unsafe for use, it is removed from sale. This program is an important tool to maintain the quality and safety of the food chain. It also protects the interests of the farmer and the general public. Inferior or adulterated feed can have a significant impact on the safety of the food supply.

The Louisiana Fertilizer Commission is responsible for overseeing the administration of the Louisiana Fertilizer Law (LRS 3:1311-1319). The purpose of the fertilizer law is to ensure the quality and safety of all fertilizer sold in the state of Louisiana. This is accomplished through manufacturer registration, sampling and analysis of fertilizer sold from dealers and retail locations. The analysis of samples and the deficiency process is handled in the same manner as feed. This program provides a significant service to the agricultural industry as well as the general public by ensuring the quality and safety of fertilizer sold. Inferior or contaminated fertilizer can have significant effects on crops that often cannot be corrected in time to prevent yield losses.

The lime program is authorized by statute (LRS 3:1361-1373) and requires the Commissioner of Agriculture to oversee the administration of that program. The program requires registration of manufacturers and is operated in a similar manner as the fertilizer program.

The Agricultural Chemistry Laboratory is a joint endeavor between the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry and the LSU Agricultural Center. The feed, fertilizer, lime and pesticide program statutes establish that the analyses for these programs should be conducted by the "state chemist". It goes on to designate the director of the Agricultural Experiment Station as the state chemist. The director of the Agricultural Chemistry Lab serves as the designee of the State Chemist. This collaboration between the regulatory roles of LDAF and the research and extension roles of the LSU AgCenter has been an excellent way for the agencies to share both the

physical and human resources necessary to fulfill their mandate to serve the agricultural industries of the state. R.S. 3:1024 provides that the director of experiment stations of the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College shall be the state chemist. R.S. 3:1025 requires the state chemist to analyze samples of soils, water, oils, minerals, etc., when samples are sent to him with the request that they be analyzed.

The Agricultural Chemistry Laboratory conducts the analysis required by the feed, fertilizer and lime programs as well as analysis required by the pesticide enforcement program in AES. R.S. 3:3225 requires the state chemist, or his designee, to perform the chemical and other analyses necessary to implement the provisions of the Pesticide Law, i.e., to confirm chemical formulations and to ensure that label claims or guarantees are accurate. It also houses the analytical portion of the USDA meat and HACCP programs administered by the Office of Animal Health.

The lab also conducts various analyses for the general public for a fee. These samples may include food, fertilizer, feed, lime, water, manure, soil and foliage. They are analyzed for things such as nutrients, protein, fat, fiber, antibiotics, pesticides, mycotoxins, water quality, metals, salts and moisture. This analysis provides a valuable service to the state's agricultural industry as well as the general public.

In addition to service samples, the lab conducts analysis of research samples for faculty at the LSU Agcenter and the LSU main campus. The presence of an on campus facility to provide analytical services is critical to the ability of many faculty members to conduct research and to obtain grant awards.

The Agricultural Chemistry Lab analyzes approximately 10,000 samples per year. Each sample typically requires an average of 4 individual analyses. That totals to approximately 40,000 individual analyses conducted each year. Last year, the lab received 4,488 samples from the feed, fertilizer and lime programs, 691 samples from the pesticide program, 621 samples from the meat and HACCP programs and 4286 service and research samples.

Seed Programs Division

Seed Law (R.S. 3: 1431-1449)- The primary purpose of the Louisiana Seed Law is to protect seedsmen, farmers and individuals from purchasing poor quality or mislabeled seed. The law set requirements and standards for the sale of seed for planting purposes. Statewide enforcement is accomplished, whereby inspectors of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry (LDAF) pull random samples of seed being offered for sale. These samples are sent to the State Seed Testing Laboratory for analysis. Enforcement action for the mislabeling of seed or seed lots that are out of tolerance for germination percentages or purity content will require a STOP-SALE ORDER issued by the Louisiana Seed Program.

Horticulture and Quarantine Programs Division

Horticulture Law (RS 3:3801-3816) - govern the qualifications and practices of persons engaged in the professions and occupations regulated by the commission; establish examinations for applications for licenses and establish minimum scores necessary to pass those examinations; require the payment of

examination fees, license fees, and permit fees as provided; hold hearings and conduct investigations; do all things necessary to prevent fraudulent practices by persons engaged in the professions and occupations regulated by the commission; encourage holders of licenses and permits to participate in continuing education programs approved by the commission.

Boll Weevil Eradication Law (RS 3:1601-1617) - The commission shall conduct investigations and hold hearings on alleged violations of rules or regulations of the law; advise the commissioner of the requirements involved in eradicating and controlling boll weevils; advise the commissioner as to the findings of the commission; advise the commissioner on the penalties to be imposed or the injunctive relief to be sought for violations; adopt rules or regulations concerning quarantines, eradication zones, movement of regulated articles, regulation of activities affecting the boll weevil eradication program, and such other rules or regulations authorized by the law; call for and direct referendums authorized by the law; set penalties for failure to pay assessments; adopt rules or regulations needed for the commission to carry out its duties and responsibilities pursuant to the law.

The commissioner shall administer and enforce the provisions and the rules or regulations adopted pursuant to the law; enter into any cooperative endeavor or cooperative agreement with any federal, state, or local agency as he deems necessary to further the purposes of the law; call, arrange, and manage any referendum under the direction of the commission; collect, administer, and disburse the proceeds of the assessment levied and collected pursuant to this Part; enter property to conduct inspections, examine and copy records, and carry out suppression or eradication activities as provided in the law; make final determinations regarding violations of any provision of the law or of the rules or regulations adopted pursuant to the law and to impose penalties for any such violations; institute civil proceedings to enforce orders or rulings or other civil relief to collect any assessments, late fees, fines, penalties or costs due under the law or otherwise enforce the provisions of the law or rules or regulations adopted pursuant to the law; exercise any power authorized by the law and to adopt rules or regulations necessary to carry out the duties and responsibilities pursuant to the law.

Crop Pest and Disease Law (RS 3:1651-1656) – shall have full and plenary power to deal with all crop and fruit pests and such contagious and infectious crop and fruit diseases as in the opinion of the entomologist, may be prevented, controlled, or eradicated; with full power to make, promulgate and enforce such rules, ordinances and regulations, and to do and perform such acts as, in the judgment of the entomologist, may be necessary to control, eradicate, or prevent the introduction, spread, or dissemination of all injurious crop and fruit pests and diseases. The state entomologist shall issue permits or certifications to growers of nursery stock.

Sweet Potato Disease Law (RS 3:1731-1736) - shall have full and plenary power to deal with sweet potato insect pests and diseases which may be prescribed, controlled, or eradicated; shall have full power to promulgate and enforce the rules, ordinances and regulations and to do and perform such acts through agents or otherwise, as may be necessary to control, eradicate, or prevent the introduction, spread, or dissemination of any and all contagious diseases and insect pests.

Apiary Law (RS 3:2301-2311) - prevent the introduction into and dissemination within this state of contagious and infectious diseases of honeybees by providing for the registration, inspection, and control of honeybees and apiaries, which activity is hereby found and declared by the legislature to promote agriculture in the state of Louisiana. The commissioner shall have full and plenary power to deal with all contagious and infectious diseases of bees and all other pests of bees, including but not limited to American and European Foulbrood, Acarine mite, Varroa mite, and Africanized bees.

List those mandates which impede attaining agency goal(s) and suggestions for changes in law(s).

The establishment of fee rates in law rather than regulation impedes the ability to make adjustments by rule in order to provide adequate funding of mandates of state law and federally required cooperative agreements. The current service fee structure causes the agency to rely upon provider fees to provide the funding for assuring fare competition, quality of service, regulatory compliance, and consumer protection without the consumer contributing a direct funding support mechanism. The state general funding sources are unreliable, inadequate, and inconsistent which continually negatively affects the protection of the public and the environment. If service fees structures are to be the sole source of funding, agencies should have the ability to set such fees at adequate levels in order to fulfill mandates.

Section Two: Efficiency and Benchmarking

Identify under-performing programs that should be overhauled or eliminated.

Pesticide and Environmental Programs Division

The Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) is designated by EPA as the state's lead agency in the regulation of pesticide use and application. The Division has no program that should be overhauled or eliminated.

Agricultural Chemistry Programs Division

All of the programs under the division of Agricultural Chemistry are operating efficiently and fulfill their intended function of ensuring the quality and safety of feed, fertilizer and lime sold in the state. The three programs collect enough revenue to cover the current expenses of the programs.

Seed Programs Division

The Seed Programs Division has no program that should be overhauled or eliminated.

Horticulture and Quarantine Programs Division

Much like the military and other safeguarding institutions, it is difficult to determine the level of performance of many quarantine-related safeguarding programs. Their worth often is not determined until the programs falter or are eliminated and pest threats emerge. In some instances, positive performance is declared based on successfully finding and identifying a pest concern; in other instances, success is declared when survey and monitoring for pest problems results in the absence of the pests ("negative data") to confirm freedom from specific regulated pests. Both sets of information are useful to citizens and agricultural industries of the state.

Specific Activity Listing:

Retail Florist Exam – the practical section of the exam could be eliminated as part of effective licensing.

Section Three: Outsourcing and privatization

List programs, functions, or activities that can be privatized or outsourced

Pesticide and Environmental Programs Division

The Pesticide and Environmental Programs Division operates as part of a fully cross-utilized Office of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences of LDAF to provide program, seasonal, and geographic cross over of personnel in order to obtain a standard of efficiency equal to or surpassing that of third party private outsource providers. Outsource providers operate under a theory of obtaining service commitments then constantly exploring means of increasing billable charges whereas an agency staff must constantly thrive to reach financial efficiency since they must operate within set budgets.

The USDA organic certification program is currently under financial and program benefit review to determine if such a program should be outsourced. Certification of organic products (various agricultural crops) could be outsourced to existing private accreditation agencies. The cost to growers is certain to be higher than current certification expenses as offered by the state.

The collection of delinquent fees and fines could be accomplished by outsourcing the collections activities to the Attorney General's office.

Horticulture and Quarantine Programs Division

Horticulture & Quarantine Programs Division already outsources a number of duties, including lab analysis (to LSU and USDA labs) for things such as Sudden Oak Death samples, nematode certification samples, citrus samples, insect identification services, certain trapping activities (fruit flies, wood-infesting pests, the bulk of gypsy moth work to USDA), and citrus pest inspections. The development and grading of the Landscape Architect exam is outsourced to the Council of Landscape Architect Registration Boards

(CLARB). Additionally, LDAF partners with USDA and the LSU AgCenter for many other quarantine or regulated pest activities to achieve the greatest efficiency and effectiveness in accomplishing the task. While LDAF and/or USDA take the lead in regulatory activities, the LSU AgCenter generally is the lead for outreach and education.

Other activities that might be outsourced:

Mexican Rice Borer trapping – since LDAF has detected this pest as having entering the state, the LSU AgCenter and/or agricultural consultants can possibly monitor the movement of this pest in rice and sugarcane as part of managing the populations.

Collection of delinquent fees and fines could be accomplished by outsourcing the collections activities to the Attorney General's office.

IT – including database development, programming services, etc.

Retail Florist Exam - Outsource the practical section of the retail florist exam with state colleges, universities, community colleges, or proprietary schools. Accept satisfactory completion of a course accredited by the Department of Education for issuance of the florist license.

Section Four: Information Technology Integration

List IT projects already underway designed to improve efficiency and effectiveness as well as potential projects.

The Office has a goal of providing an online payment system of regulatory fees and fines.

Pesticide and Environmental Programs Division

The Pesticide and Environmental Programs Division (PEPD) has reduced IT software cost by contracting the primary program writing that produces an agency owned software program that agency IT programmers can maintain and upgrade without experiencing extreme per unit licensing fees and annual upgrade charges that traditionally increase over time. An example is the pesticide registration e-registration software program launched at a cost of approximately \$ 210,000. At a recent EPA multi-state meeting it was expressed that some states with similar programs have experienced outsource cost for a similar software program of \$ 1.2 million for an unsatisfactory product. PEPD's experience has demonstrated that with sufficient IT support and maintenance staff this method has proven to be most efficient.

The Division continues to seek expansion of its Pesticides Enforcement Programs System Integration (PEPSI). The program facilitates a full electronic (paperless) enforcement and inspection tracking system that originates with the inspector making the field inspection, review by district supervisor, district manager, and then to the state office pesticide enforcement coordinator. The necessary receipts are printed in the field for the party being inspected. Also, the chain of custody document is printed to

accompany samples related to the inspection. The PEPSI system automatically enables state program administrators to track activities, create reports, and respond to requests for information. PEPSI also is programmed to provide bean count reports as required by the EPA oversight audits, EPA's Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART) and for the Louisiana legislative performance indicators thus reducing employee hours, providing accurate tracking information, and allowing employee hours to be spent on program work activities. The shift to more field hours results in a shorter inspection cycle to better monitor the pesticide application activities in the state to better assure the public health of the state's citizens and ensure the preservation of Louisiana's environment in relation to pesticides.

The Division is currently working on a new electronic system to allow for the electronic filing and payment related to structural pest control wood destroying insect reports and termite contracts.

Agricultural Chemistry Programs Division

The division of Agricultural Chemistry recently moved to a new database system to track registration and labeling for the feed, fertilizer and lime programs. A future program would include inspection, sampling and analysis to improve sample handling and efficiency of reporting results.

Seed Programs Division

IT projects recently completed or ongoing include:

- Seed LIMS (Laboratory Information Management System) Program
- Seed Enforcement Program accessed by field inspectors via laptop computers and integrated into the Seed LIMS Program for quick information transfer
- Public website to allow farmers and consumers to access and download the most up-to-date seed programs related information and forms
- A process of including the most up-to-date reference and training materials on the department intranet system for easy inspector access.
- A quicker and more efficient lab reporting system through email

Horticulture and Quarantine Programs Division

- Expand the Horticulture & Quarantine database (currently in place for Horticulture Commission exams and licenses) to include permits and quarantine programs.
- Develop a means for on-line license, permit, exam, etc. applications and payments.
- Develop a means for individuals to print their own licenses and permits from a secured access database after the on-line applications have been processed (this will save printing and mailing costs).
- Develop an invoicing system for boll weevil assessments based on electronic records provided by USDA/FSA.

Section Five: Elimination of Duplicative and Unnecessary Services

List the activities of your department that fall outside of your constitutional and statutory mandates.

Pesticide and Environmental Programs Division

The Department of Agriculture and Forestry has been granted primary enforcement responsibility of pesticides through the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). The department has, since the 1970's, entered into a cooperative agreement with EPA for monitoring, inspecting and adjudicating Louisiana Pesticide Laws as endorsed by EPA through FIFRA and receives federal grant monies for such. Activities of the department through the cooperative agreement also include the overseeing of endangered species protection and pesticide worker safety. The pesticide and environmental activities of the department are supported by EPA FIFRA cooperative agreement funds to a limited extent, but the greater majority of the program funds are derived from fees collected for pesticide product registrations, certification and individuals, licensing of pesticide owner-operator companies, and the registration of motorized pesticide application equipment.

The Division currently operates an organic certification program under the USDA as an authorized organic certification provider. This certification program is low volume but does provide a state based oversight of a consumer and producer based product demand for organic commodities and operates in harmony with pesticide regulatory oversight by enjoying the benefit of cross-utilized inspectors familiar with the interactions to avoid drift situations between pesticide use areas and organic production areas. This is an intangible benefit but it does produce a tangible cost.

The FDA assisted pesticides in food safety program is operated through a cooperative agreement with the FDA and receives minimal support funding from FDA; however, the monetary support from FDA is enhanced by the laboratory support FDA provides by conducting the laboratory analysis of samples collected by the PEPD. These FDA lab results are shared with LDAF thus enhancing pesticide residue monitoring in food as required in LDAF's mission.

The USDA enters into an annual cooperative agreement with LDAF to provide inspections and reports on the Private Applicator Recording Keeping requirement as provided for in the US farm bill. The USDA does provide sufficient funding for this activity and the inspections enhance LDAF's pesticide use monitoring.

Identify outdated activities that should no longer be part of the mission of your agency.

Horticulture and Quarantine Programs Division

- Eliminate response to public nuisance calls on wasps, hornets and honeybees. This activity was a spin off of the Africanized Honey Bee (AHB) trap line in an effort to determine if these calls may have pertained to AHB.

- Eliminate certification activities for non-commercial shipments or movement of plant material. Most of these are for houseplants that people bring with them when moving. Many states require that these materials are certified as free from various plant pests prior to movement. In most cases it would result in this material not being allowed to move.
- Eradication and Control of the Imported Fire Ant – RS 3:2351-2354- this law from 1960 can be repealed. It goes back to the days of aerial applications of Mirex over the state in an attempt to eradicate. All efforts to eradicate this insect have been futile. The ability to eradicate has long passed. Additionally, this insect serves as an important biocontrol agent of the sugarcane borer. All fire ant activities within LDAF now pertain to the certification of certain products for movement from Louisiana as required by other states where the fire ant isn't established.

Identify duplication or overlap with other state agencies, with the federal government, or with public or private stakeholder groups.

Pesticide and Environmental Programs Division

Multiple entities (public and private) are monitoring and providing for the control of Formosan termites in Louisiana. The LSU Department of Entomology has an established program in Urban Entomology which includes structural pest management. As part of the LSU program, Formosan subterranean termite populations have been monitored in New Orleans for the last 20 years with new research focusing on Formosan termites in other areas of the state. Five LSU faculty directly address and research Formosan termite topics in Louisiana as part of this program. In addition, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service (USDA/ARS) at the Southern Regional Research Center in New Orleans, LA is coordinating a National Termite Management Program. The USDA/ARS program incorporates area-wide approaches in the control of Formosan Subterranean termites in New Orleans and studies on the dispersion of Formosan termites from urban structures to forests and from forests to other urban areas. This effort is being coordinated with Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, New Orleans Mosquito and Termite Control Board, and other collaborators.

Also, the New Orleans Mosquito & Termite Control Board (NOMTCB) is coordinating with pest control operators (PCO) located in Louisiana to track the spread of Formosan termite across the state. The NOMTCB identifies termite specimens collected in the field by PCO's and maps the areas of Louisiana where Formosan termites have been found. At the same time, PCO's, as part of their business, are actively engaged in the monitoring and control of Formosan termites across Louisiana.

Agricultural Chemistry Programs

Because so many programs and services are housed within the Agricultural Chemistry lab, there are little or no duplicative services. All of the programs in Agricultural Chemistry provide valuable services to the agriculture community as well as to the general public. Because so many resources are shared between agencies, many duplicate facilities have been eliminated.

Seed Programs Division

There is no duplication or overlap with other state agencies or with the federal government or with public groups. The Louisiana State Seed Testing Laboratory is the only seed laboratory in the state.

Horticulture and Quarantine Programs Division

We work hard to avoid duplication of efforts on all activities in the Horticulture & Quarantine Programs Division due to limited resources. LDAF partners with USDA and the LSU AgCenter for many quarantine or regulated pest activities to achieve the greatest efficiency and effectiveness in accomplishing the task. While LDAF and/or USDA take the lead in regulatory activities, the LSU AgCenter generally is the lead for outreach and education.

Section Six: Civil Service and Employee Benefits.

List and identify any current initiatives or ideas related to employee benefits, hiring and promotion, and other employee regulations.

We have recently reviewed and are in the process of attempting to update the civil service job descriptions of our Agricultural Chemistry and Seed laboratory analysts in order to be capable of attracting the most qualified applicants.

Employees should be provided cost of living increases as standard of living maintenance and a separate salary increase program should be provided for that rewards performance levels that are outstanding as a means of retention for quality employees. This would produce a higher efficiency performance due to position continuity and reduced training requirements.

Section Seven: Studies and other Resources

Pesticide and Environmental Programs Division

The Division operates under an audit review of all EPA cooperative agreement required measures for Louisiana's state primacy for pesticide regulation in relation to the Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).

<http://www.epa.gov/agriculture/fifra.html>

http://www.epa.gov/Compliance/resources/publications/monitoring/fifra/manuals/fifra/fiframanch_04.pdf

Agricultural Chemistry Programs Division

The lab is in the process of evaluating each analysis conducted to determine ways to improve efficiency while maintaining the high quality of our analysis. Standard Operating Procedures have been created for our lab procedures that ensure efficiency and consistency.

The laws and regulations for the feed and fertilizer programs conform to national standards established by the Association of Feed Control Officials (www.aafco.org) and the Association of Plant Food Control Officials (www.aapfco.org) respectively. This makes compliance with state laws more manageable for manufacturers of feed and fertilizers.

Seed Programs Division

<http://www.seedcontrol.org/>

<http://www.aosaseed.com/>

<http://www.aosca.org/>

Horticulture and Quarantine Programs Division

All state plant regulatory agencies belong to a national organization (National Plant Board) that works cooperatively between states and USDA. There are many working groups, committees, sub-agencies, etc. that study pest issues and formulate best practices for these pests. Below are websites for some of these groups.

- National Plant Board – www.nationalplantboard.org
- USDA,APHIS,PPQ – www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health
 - USDA New Pest Advisory Group - www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/cphst/npag/index.shtml
 - USDA Technical Working Groups – various groups for different pests of concern – each is a different web page.
 - Center for Plant Health Science and Technology - www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/cphst/index.shtml
- National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN) – www.npdn.org
- LSU AgCenter - www.agctr.lsu.edu
 - Evaluation of Louisiana's Green Industry Economic Contribution - www.agctr.lsu.edu/nr/rdonlyres/2c3367b7-2f10-46c0-802d-26470d0c135d/4111/ris108greenindustry6.pdf

The following studies pertain to Boll Weevil

- Haney, P.B., W.J. Lewis, and W.R. Lambert. 1996. Cotton Production and the Boll Weevil in Georgia: History, Cost of Control, and Benefits of Eradication. Georgia Agri. Exp. Stn. Res. Bull. 428: 1-48.
- NRC (National Research Council). 1981. Cotton Boll Weevil: An Evaluation of USDA Programs. National Academy Press, Washington, DC.
- Ridgeway, R.L., E.P. Lloyd, and W.H. Cross. 1983. Cotton Insect Management With Special Reference to the Boll Weevil. USDA Agricultural Handbook No. 589: 1-591.
- USDA-ARS (United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service). 2003. Agricultural Research Service. Agricultural Research Magazine, Vol. 51, No.2 Feb. 2003. <http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/AR/archive/feb03> <viewed 06/22/2004>

- Suszkiw, J., J.D. Quattro, and S. Adams. 1994. Evicting the Boll Weevil. Agricultural Research, March 1994 Vol. 42 n3 p4(7).
- <http://etd.lsu.edu/docs/available/etd-01252005-131546/>

Section Eight: Agency Best Practices

List and indentify any current successful streamlining initiatives taking place (or has taken place) within your agency.

Inspectors (Agricultural Environmental Specialists) in the Office of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences are cross-utilized and perform inspection work in all programs within the office. Field inspectors are positioned in close geographic proximity to their assigned work areas to minimize vehicle expense, travel time, and minimize response time. Over the past few years, we have lost inspectors and have not hired any new inspectors to replace them. As a result, these individuals are taking on more responsibilities and we have worked to provide field assistance by utilizing Program Coordinators to assist with inspections. A further reduction of inspectors, however, will result in a decrease in revenues collected.

Pesticide and Environmental Programs Division

The Division has reduced the pesticides in water program route sampling program by 50% as a cost reduction measure while still maintaining sampling during the two most probable quarters of the years that pesticides are expected to be present.

The USDA organic certification program is currently under financial and program benefit review to determine if such a program should continue.

The Formosan Termite Initiative program is being suspended due to lack of general funding for a program that lacks self generating service fees to support its activities.

Due to reduced field inspector personnel, an establishment of response priority has been given to pesticide complaints over the routine and monitoring activities to assure that citizen complaints continue to receive the timeliest response possible due to funding shortages.

The cycle time for conducting routine and monitoring inspections has been extended to assure that thorough and complete inspections are maintained but on a less frequent schedule.

Agricultural Chemistry Programs Division

Agricultural Chemistry has lost two positions funded through LDAF and two positions funded by the LSU AgCenter in the last three years. The duties of these lost positions have been absorbed by remaining employees. We have been able to maintain our level of analysis while sustaining these losses. The lab has improved our efficiency through the years by combining job duties as well as acquiring equipment that improved analytical efficiency.

Seed Programs Division